
RULES OF THE ROAD

RULES OF THE ROAD help people get safely to and from where they want to go.

If everyone **OBEYS** the rules of the road, the number of deaths and injuries on our streets and highways would be less than they are.

OBEY the rules of the road and each trip will be a **SAFE** and **HAPPY** trip.

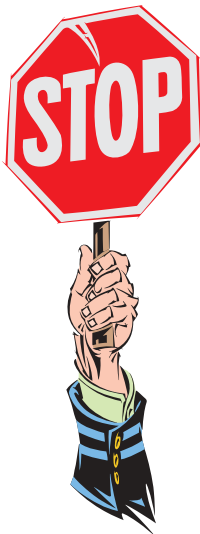
Nine out of ten crashes are caused by **ERRORS** in **HUMAN JUDGMENT**.

The first rule of the road is **OBEY**

the order of a highway patrol
or police officer.



OBEY



all traffic control devices.



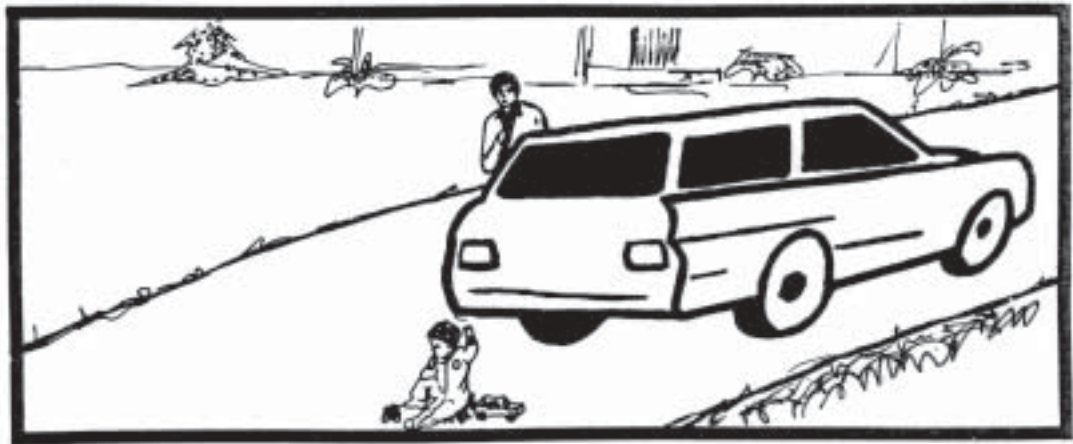
OBEY

traffic laws.

LAWS AND REGULATIONS

Some basic important laws are:

A person operating or driving a vehicle shall drive in a careful and prudent **(SAFE)** manner.



Walk around the car before backing up.

- ✓ **NO PERSON** shall move a vehicle unless it can be done safely and without interfering with traffic.
- ✓ **NO PERSON** shall drive a vehicle which is not in a safe mechanical condition.
- ✓ **NO PERSON** shall turn a vehicle without giving a proper signal.

LAWS AND REGULATIONS KEEP YOU SAFE.

SPEED LIMITS

You should always:

DRIVE AT A SPEED THAT IS
SAFE FOR CONDITIONS

These conditions are:

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| ✓Light | ✓Weather |
| ✓Road | ✓Traffic |
| ✓Vehicle | ✓Driver |

You need to **ASK YOURSELF:**

- Can I see okay?
- Can I stop quickly?
- Do I feel good enough to drive?



OBEY SPEED LIMIT signs

—but remember—

CAR CONTROL and **GOOD JUDGMENT** tell you how fast to drive for every condition.

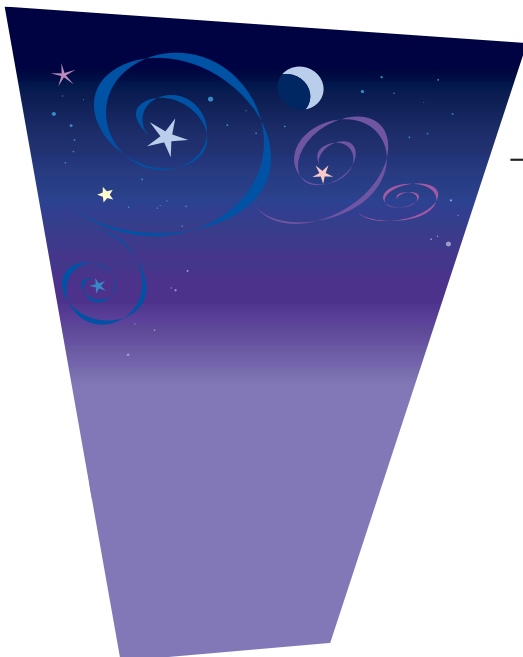
SPEED

Under Ideal Conditions

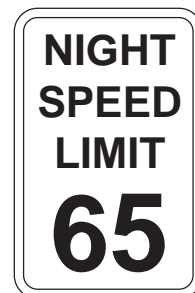
In town—



Construction—



—At night—



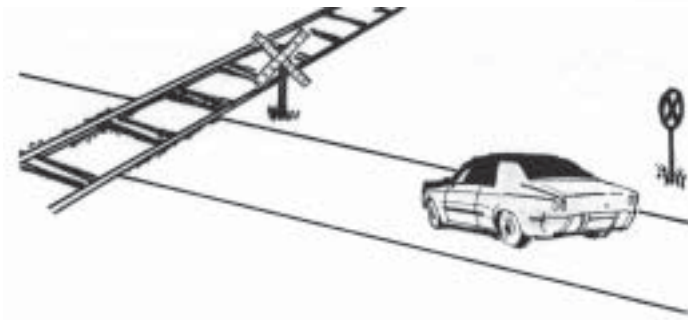
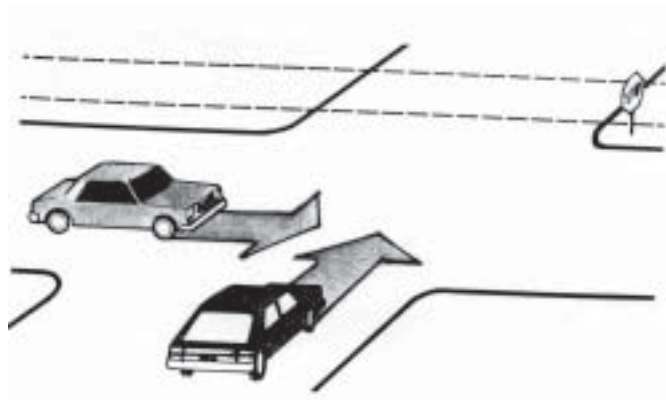
65 M.P.H. on secondary roads

SPEED

You must drive at a **REDUCED SPEED**

when coming to or crossing
an **INTERSECTION**

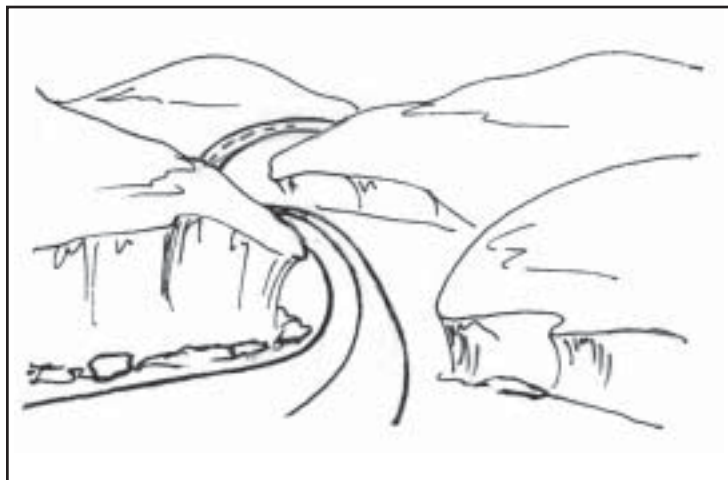
or



RAILROAD CROSSING,

approaching or going
around a **CURVE**,

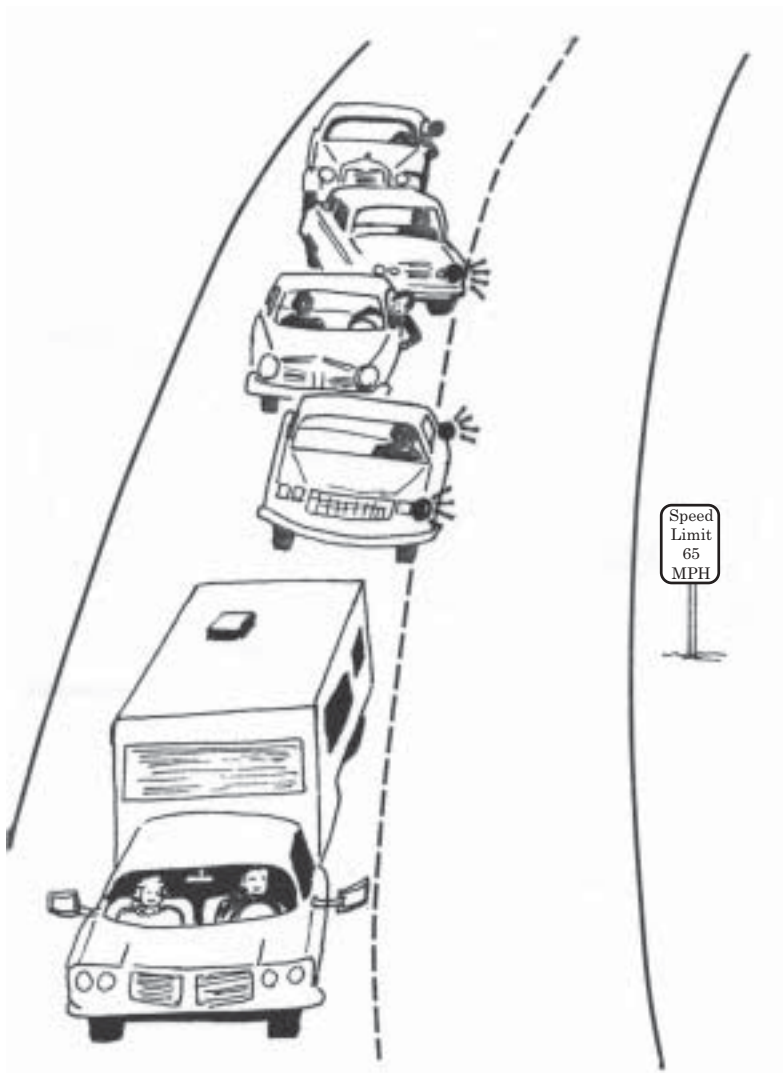
approaching
a **HILLCREST**.



SPEED

Too Slow

DO NOT drive so slowly that you block traffic.



Whenever **FOUR** vehicles are lined up **BEHIND YOU**, you must safely pull over as soon as you can and let them pass.

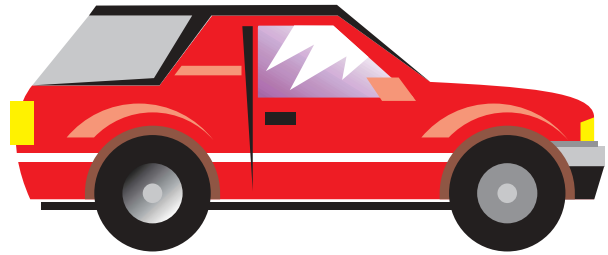
SPEED

HIGHWAY SPEED AT NIGHT IS 65 M.P.H.

Many interstate roadways permit 75 M.P.H.

Drivers cannot see as far at night.

SLOW DOWN.



Sometimes it is not wise to drive as fast as the speed limit allows.

Drivers must adjust their speed at night to allow for road conditions, weather conditions, and the condition of the vehicle.

SPEED LIMITS

The **SPEED LIMIT** on Montana interstate highways is 75 miles per hour day and night except near large cities.

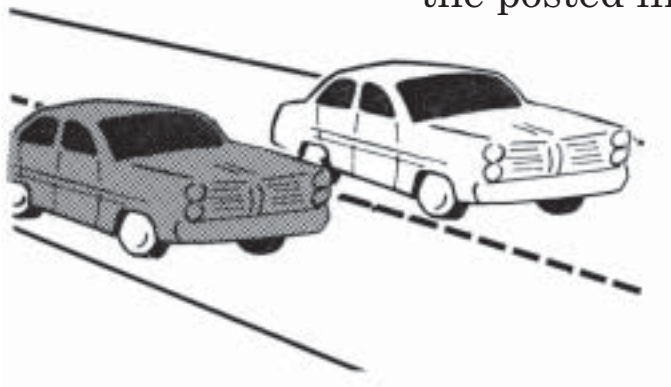
Automobiles	
Interstate 4-lane (nonurban)	75
Interstate 4-lane (urban)	65
Non-interstate	70; night 65
Highway 93	65 at all times

The **SPEED LIMIT** on Montana secondary highways is **70** miles per hour.

Trucks	
Interstate	65
Non-interstate	60; night 55

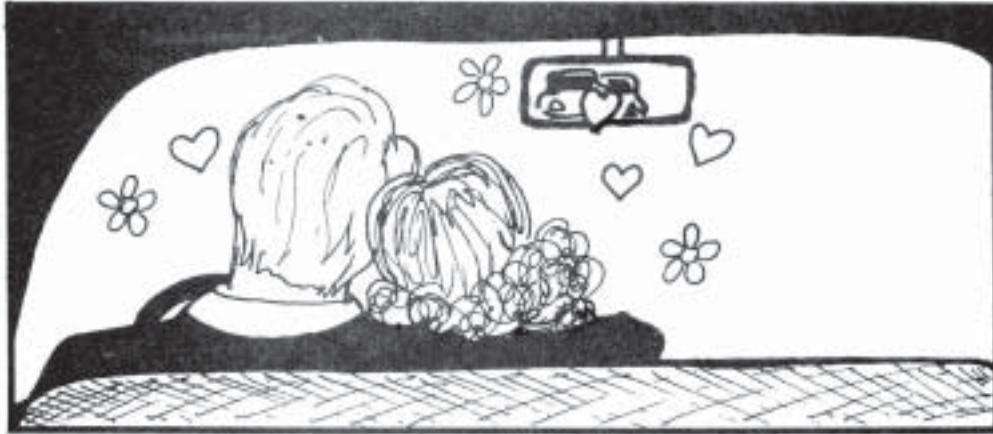
SPEED WHEN PASSING:

In order to overtake and pass a vehicle and return safely to the right-hand lane of a two-lane road, a vehicle may exceed the posted limit by 10 M.P.H.

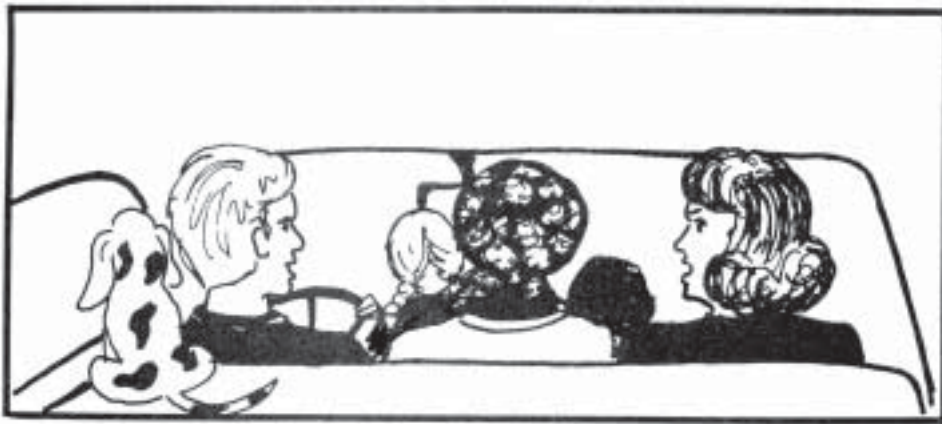


PASSENGERS

Behavior and Number



Passengers in the front seat must **NOT** interfere with the driver's ability to drive or obstruct the driver's view.



EACH PASSENGER in the front seat must have a seat belt.

PASSENGERS

Illegally Located

If you are driving, you must not let anyone ride on the outside of the car.

If you are a passenger riding on the outside of a car, you can be arrested.

Riding on the outside on a car is a **RECKLESS** practice because it endangers the passenger, the driver, other passengers and other vehicles using the road.

Riding in the back of a pickup is not illegal

BUT

It is not a good thing to do.
Many people are hurt by
falling out on corners and after quick stops.



Other people have been killed when the pickup turns over in a crash.

CRASHES

Most crashes happen because of **DRIVER ERROR**:

- they do not signal;
- they do not look;
- they drink alcohol and then drive;
- they do not pay attention to road signs; and
- they drive too fast.

✓ Sometimes car defects cause crashes.

✓ Sometimes a poor road, bad weather or confusing signs help to cause crashes.



Most crashes are **CAUSED** by **ERRORS IN HUMAN JUDGMENT AND CAN BE PREVENTED.**

CRASHES

Notifying Police

The driver of a vehicle involved in a crash **MUST IMMEDIATELY NOTIFY POLICE**

IF:

there is apparent property damage of **\$500.00 or more**

OR

if anyone is hurt or killed.

The **POLICE** will:

- ✓ render any necessary first aid,
- ✓ investigate and determine the cause of the crash,
- ✓ protect your property against theft or further damage from another crash.



CRASHES

When a Crash Report Form is Required

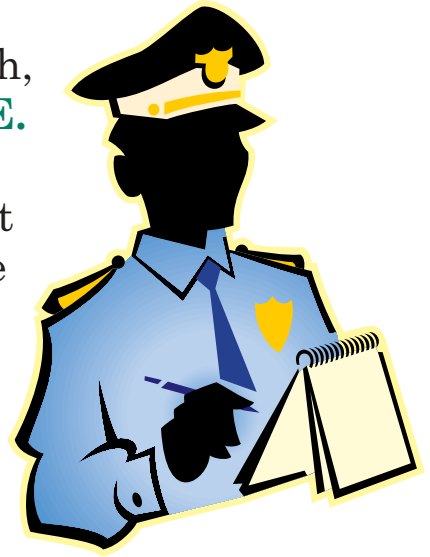
- ✓ If you have a **CRASH** where damage totals over **\$1,000.00**, or someone is hurt or killed.
- ✓ **EACH DRIVER** must fill out a **WRITTEN REPORT TO THE HIGHWAY PATROL.**
- ✓ Failure to report this crash could cause your license to be suspended.
- ✓ This must be done within **10** days.
- ✓ The form for the report can be obtained from any police, sheriff or patrol officer.



CRASHES

Do not leave the scene.

- ✓ In case you are **INVOLVED** in a crash, **YOU MUST NOT LEAVE THE SCENE.**
- ✓ Stop and park as close as possible but out of traffic. If it is a bad crash, do **NOT** move your vehicle.
- ✓ Give your name, address, and vehicle registration number.
- ✓ Show your license to drive, if asked.
- ✓ Give reasonable assistance. Call a doctor or ambulance if necessary. Take the injured for medical help, if they ask.
- ✓ The Driver Record and Control Bureau will **REVOKE** the license of anyone who is convicted of leaving the scene of a crash they were **INVOLVED** in.
- ✓ If you were **NOT** involved, do **NOT** stop, unless a police officer or flagman tells you to, or your help is needed.



LIABILITY INSURANCE

Montana law requires **LIABILITY INSURANCE**.

Every vehicle owner or operator must be insured for at least:

- \$10,000 for property damage;
- \$25,000 for injuries or death for one person;
- \$50,000 for bodily injury or death of two persons in any one crash.

Montana Liability Insurance Identification Card	
Safety Insurance Companies	
<u>Policy Number:</u>	1234 765 421-10
<u>Named Insured:</u>	Courteous Driver
<u>Coverages:</u>	A C H U
<u>Vehicle Description:</u>	<u>Year/Make/ID Number:</u>
99 Ford 1/2 ton	F 25YRL2337
<u>Effective Date:</u>	<u>Expiration Date:</u>
Apr-4-2002	Apr-3-2004
KEEP THIS CARD IN YOUR VEHICLE AT ALL TIMES	

Your **INSURANCE CARD** must be **IN** your vehicle. You may be fined if you do not carry liability insurance.

VEHICLE EQUIPMENT AND CONDITION

Parts of Your Vehicle



- Tires
 - Tread
 - Air Pressure
- Brakes
- Headlights
- Taillights
- Signal Lights
- Horn
- Windshield
 - Clean
- Wipers
- Exhaust System
- Filters
 - Air and Oil

No one shall drive a vehicle which is not in **SAFE** mechanical condition.

A vehicle with mechanical problems can **CAUSE** a crash. It costs a lot of money to have your vehicle towed and repaired.

A vehicle must have all **EQUIPMENT** which the law requires.

Its equipment must be in good **WORKING** condition.

EQUIPMENT

Horn

Every vehicle must have a **HORN** which can be heard for **200** feet.

Know where the horn is located so you can find it when you need it.

Windshield Wipers

No vehicle may be driven without a **WINDSHIELD** wiper.

The windshield **WIPERS** must be in good condition and good working order.



Muffler

All vehicles **SHALL** be equipped with a muffler at all times.

The muffler **MUST** be in good working order.

It **MUST** prevent excessive noise and smoke.

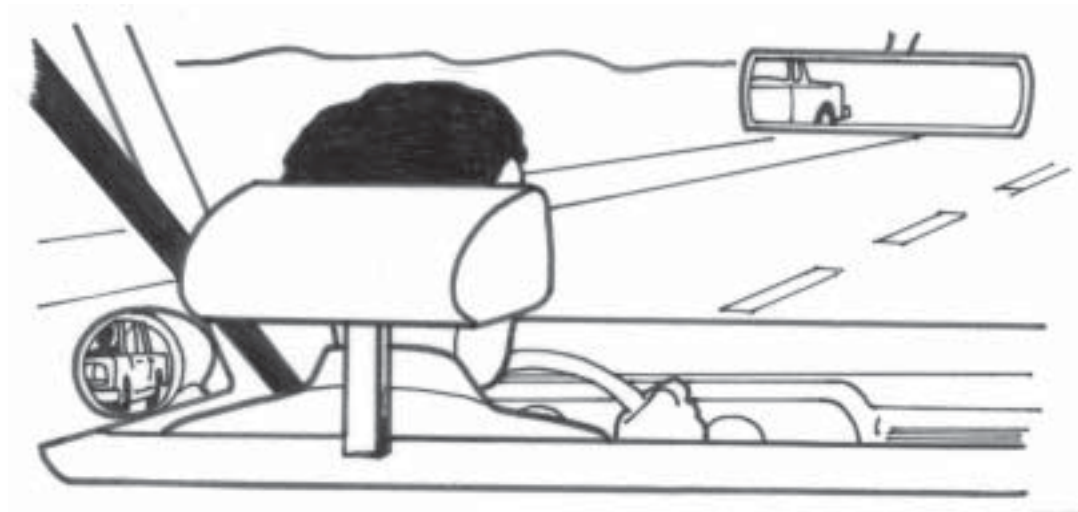
Muffler cutouts, bypasses and similar devices are **NOT** allowed.

A **LEAKY MUFFLER** can make you **DROWSY** when driving due to vehicle exhaust entering the vehicle.

EQUIPMENT

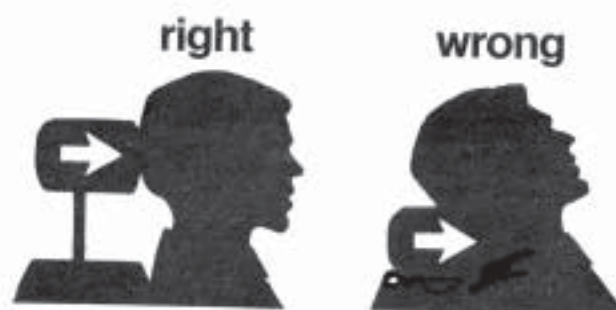
Mirrors

Every vehicle must have a mirror so the driver can see **200** feet to the rear.



Head Restraints

Head restraints offer the best protection when adjusted properly.



Long Load

If you are hauling a load that goes **FOUR FEET** past the end of your vehicle, you must attach a red flag to the end of the load.

The red flag must be **12 INCHES** square.

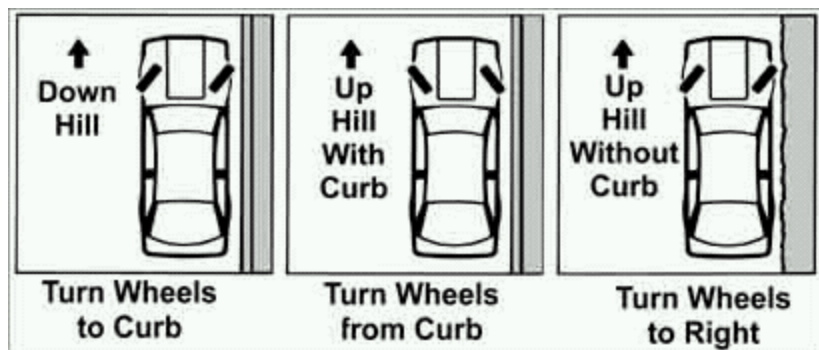


Explosives

Every vehicle carrying explosives shall be marked on each side and on the rear with the word “EXPLOSIVES” in letters **EIGHT INCHES** high.

Brakes

Vehicle brakes must be able to **STOP** and **HOLD** your car under all conditions.



EQUIPMENT

Tires

Too much or not enough air pressure in tires can **CAUSE** loss of control when driving.

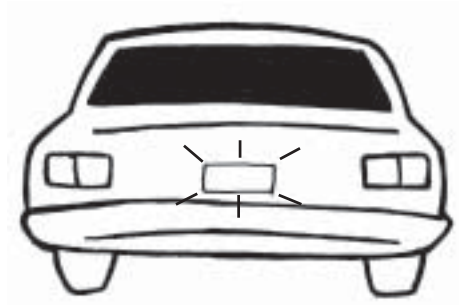
Worn tire tread can keep you from stopping quickly and from controlling your vehicle properly.



LIGHTS

License Plate

A separate WHITE light shall illuminate the license plate so it can be seen for 50 feet.



Spotlight

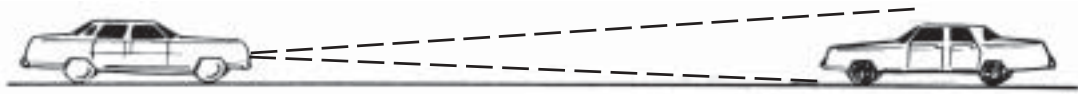
Spotlights must be turned off **WHEN MEETING** or **PASSING** other vehicles at night.

HEADLIGHTS

How good they **MUST** be

Headlights on upper beam must show persons or vehicles at **350** feet.

Upper (**BRIGHT**)
350 feet

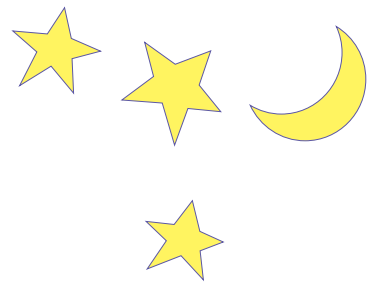


Headlights on lower beam must show persons or vehicles at **100** feet.

Lower (**DIM**)



Headlights are to be used any time from a half hour after sunset until a half hour before sunrise or whenever you cannot see 500 feet or less.



WHEN and **WHERE** to dim.

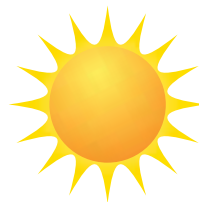
- ✓ Dim headlights within **500** feet when following another vehicle.
- ✓ Dim within **1,000** feet when meeting another vehicle.
- ✓ You must **ALWAYS** dim, even if the other driver does not.
- ✓ If the other driver flicks high lights, he is **TELLING** you that you have forgotten to dim yours.
- ✓ If the car coming toward you does not dim high lights, flick your lights and **LOOK DOWN TO THE RIGHT SIDE** of the road. **DO NOT** look at his lights.

TAIL AND BRAKE LIGHTS

When Required and How Good



- ✓ All vehicles must have **TAILLIGHTS**.
- ✓ Taillights must be **RED**.
- ✓ Taillights must be visible for **500** feet.
- ✓ You must have two taillights.
- ✓ **BRAKE LIGHTS** may be **RED** or **AMBER**. Brake lights must be visible for **100** feet in **SUNLIGHT**.
- ✓ You must have **AT LEAST** one brake light. It is against the law to travel with none. (All cars should have two brake lights.)



SCHOOL BUS

Look For

FLASHING YELLOW (front and rear)

Slow down.

Go carefully.

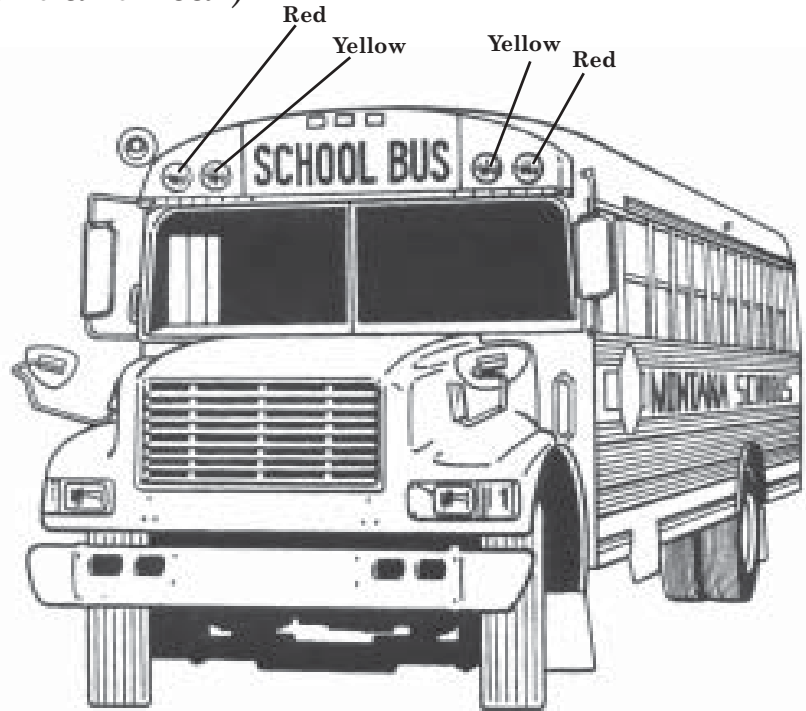
The bus is going to stop.

RED SIGNAL (rear)

Stopped bus.

Stop behind a stopped bus.

Do not go until children are no longer in the roadway and the bus ceases operation of its visual red flashing signals.



RED SIGNAL (front)

Stop when meeting a stopped bus.

Do not go until children are no longer in the roadway and the bus ceases operation of its visual red flashing signals.

SCHOOL CROSSING GUARD

It is unlawful to pass a school crossing guard while he/she is holding his/her official sign in the stop position.



EMERGENCY VEHICLES

Speed and Traffic Signals

Emergency vehicles answering a call may go **THROUGH** stop signs and signals.

They **MAY** also exceed the speed limit.



When you see or hear them coming, you must move to the right side of the road or street and **STOP**.

FIRE ENGINE

Following

DO NOT follow a fire engine closer than **500 feet** if it is answering an alarm.

NEVER drive into or park within the block where fire equipment has stopped.

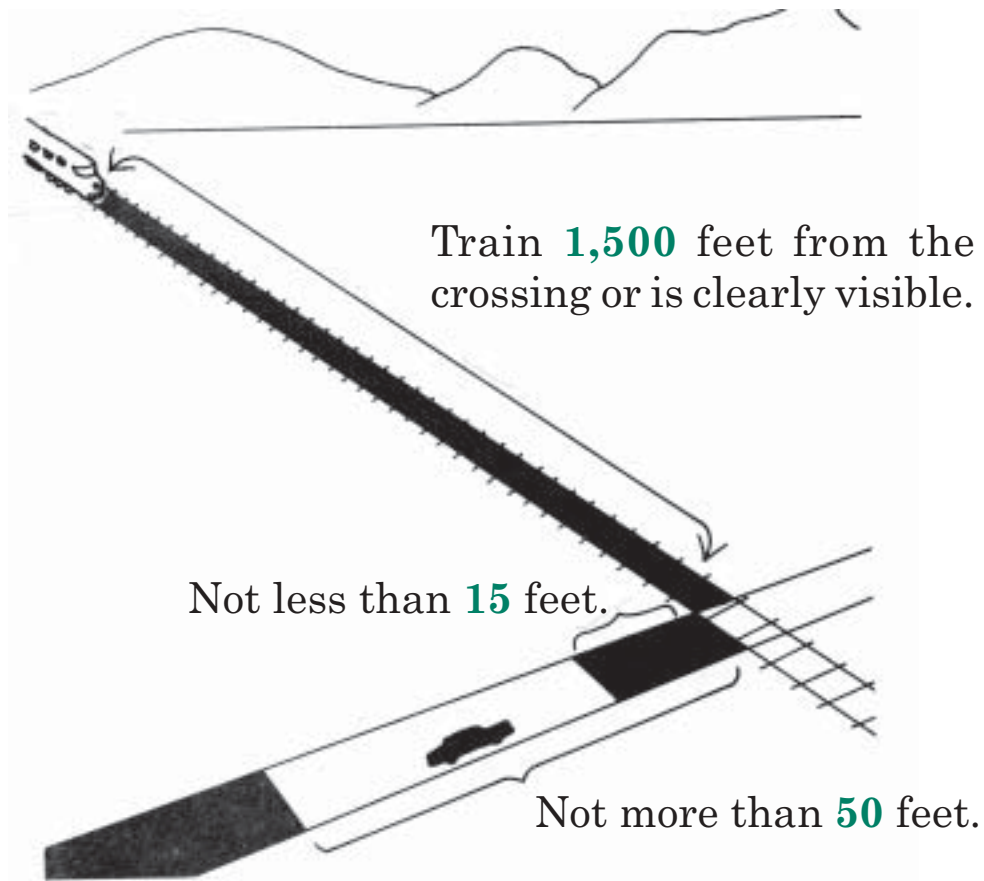
NEVER drive over a fire hose.



RAILROAD CROSSINGS

Where to Stop

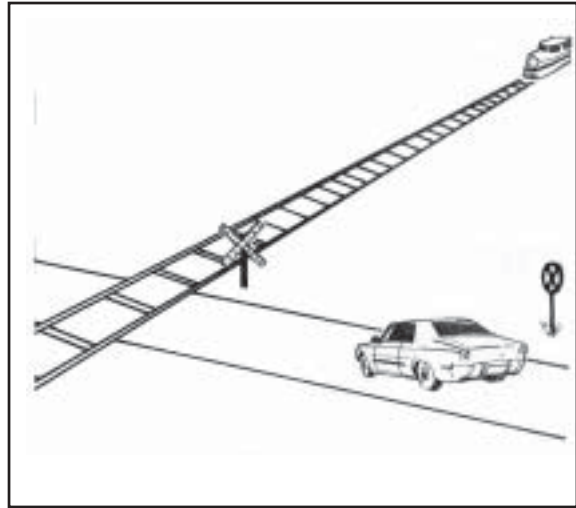
STOP at railroad crossings not more than **50** feet nor less than 15 feet from the nearest rail when warned of approaching train or when train is within **1,500** feet of the crossing or is clearly visible.



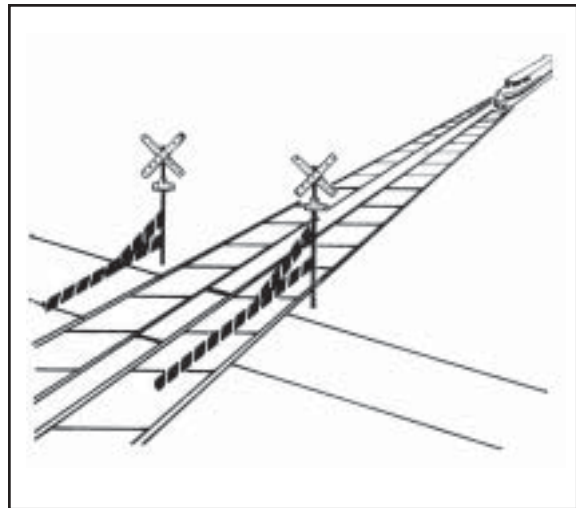
RAILROAD CROSSINGS

When to Stop

STOP at railroad crossings when a train is in clear view.



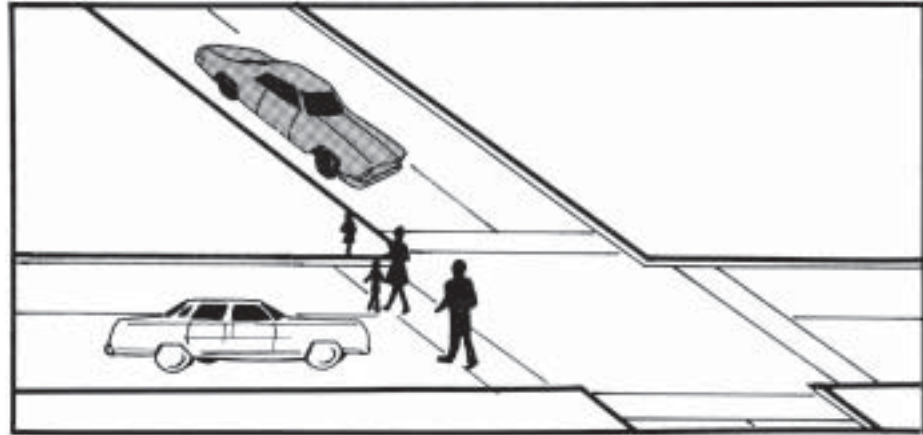
Warning signals mean **STOP**.



PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS

DRIVERS SHALL YIELD the right of way to pedestrians crossing on a crosswalk, and to pedestrians crossing the street illegally.

but



NO PEDESTRIAN shall leave the curb and walk into the path of a vehicle.

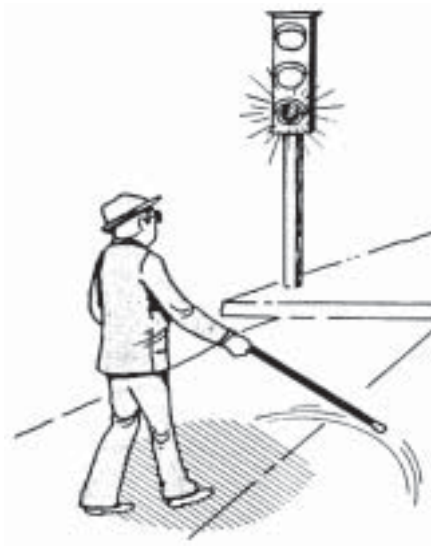


PEDESTRIANS

Totally or Partially Blind

Both **DRIVERS** and **PEDESTRIANS** must take care to avoid crash or injury to the blind or partially sighted.

Drivers must come to a full **STOP** when a blind person approaches.



WATCH FOR:

- guide dogs,
- white or metallic canes,
- white canes tipped with red.

PEDESTRIANS

Walking on Highway

Pedestrians **MUST** walk on the **LEFT** side of the roadway **FACING** traffic.



Pedestrians should **CARRY** a light at night, or wear light clothing or reflecting markings.



Where walkways are provided, pedestrians must **USE** them.

It is **NOT** legal to walk on the road when walkways are provided.

BICYCLES

Sharing the Road

All bicycles must be operated in a **SINGLE FILE**.

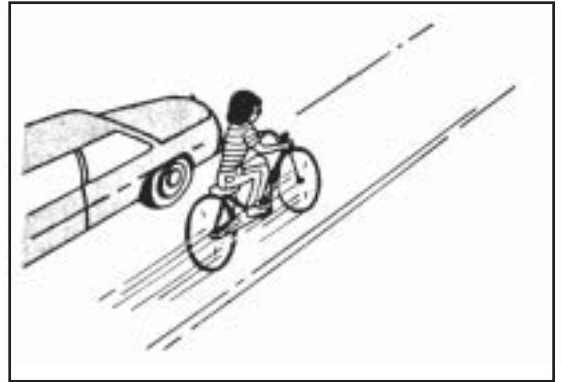
Bicycles shall ride as near to the **RIGHT SIDE** of the roadway as practical.

Bicycles shall use **BIKE PATHS** when provided adjacent to a roadway.

Bicyclists **MUST OBEY** all motor vehicle laws.

When meeting or passing a bicycle, **BE EXTRA CAREFUL**. Bicyclists may change directions suddenly.

NOTE: Motor vehicles **MUST YIELD** to a bicyclist as you would to another motorist.



SELF-TEST

RULES OF THE ROAD

Directions: Choose only one answer.

1. You must obey all traffic signs
 - a. if you have 15 points on your record.
 - b. at all times.
 - c. if you see a police officer.
2. No person shall turn a vehicle
 - a. unless she/he gives a signal.
 - b. unless the vehicle is in good condition.
 - c. without slowing to 15 M.P.H.
3. Failure to keep your motor vehicle liability insurance in force:
 - a. is not important.
 - b. can cause you to be fined by a court.
 - c. may cause your insurance rates to rise.
4. Every driver must have proof of vehicle liability insurance
 - a. in the vehicle when driving.
 - b. at home in a safe place.
 - c. if the driver has liability insurance.
5. Most traffic crashes are caused by
 - a. mechanical failures.
 - b. poor driver judgment.
 - c. bad roads.

6. A driver involved in a crash where a person is killed or injured
 - a. must fill out a written report within 10 days.
 - b. must tell the insurance company if he/she wants to.
 - c. will lose her/his license for five years.
7. If you are involved in a crash and leave the crash scene
 - a. your license will be revoked.
 - b. you may be fined up to \$20.
 - c. it is all right if you are in a hurry.
8. If you have a crash, you must report it if the damage
 - a. is less than \$500.00.
 - b. is \$500.00 or more
 - c. you must report any crash.
9. It is permissible to exceed the speed limit to pass on a two-lane road
 - a. at no time.
 - b. if you are in a hurry.
 - c. if you just exceed the limit by 10 M.P.H.
10. The speed limit in a highway construction zone is
 - a. 35 miles per hour.
 - b. 25 miles per hour.
 - c. 45 miles per hour.
11. The speed limit in a town, unless otherwise posted, is
 - a. 25 miles per hour.
 - b. there is no speed limit.
 - c. 30 miles per hour.

12. The speed limit at night on a state highway (non-interstate) is
 - a. 75 miles per hour.
 - b. 65 miles per hour.
 - c. as fast as you can go and still see.
13. The speed limit at night on the interstate highway is
 - a. 75 miles per hour
 - b. 65 miles per hour
 - c. as fast as you can go and still see.
14. If you are hauling a load which goes past the back of a vehicle by _____ feet, you must attach a red flag on the end of the load.
 - a. 2 feet
 - b. 3 feet
 - c. 4 feet
15. Vehicle taillights must be seen for
 - a. 350 feet.
 - b. 100 feet.
 - c. 500 feet.
16. An exhaust system which leaks
 - a. can make you drowsy when you are driving.
 - b. is allowed on trucks.
 - c. means your car needs a tune-up.
17. You must turn your headlights on if you cannot see vehicles or people at 500 feet
 - a from one-half hour after sunset to one-half hour before sunrise.
 - b. if there is lots of traffic.
 - c. at funerals.

18. Each vehicle must have a horn which can be heard for
- a. 500 feet.
 - b. 200 feet.
 - c. 1,000 feet.
19. Each vehicle must have rearview mirrors which allow the driver to see _____ feet to the rear.
- a. 150 feet.
 - b. 200 feet.
 - c. 500 feet.
20. Headlights must show persons or vehicles
- a. 350 feet on upper beam.
 - b. 100 feet on lower beam.
 - c. both of the above.

